



DECLARATION

**Adopted at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India at the BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting
07 August, 2026**

We, the BRICS Ministers of Education and assigned representatives of the Republic of India, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the People's Republic of China, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, the Republic of South Africa and the United Arab Emirates met for the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting on the 7th August 2026 in Bhubaneswar, India, under the theme *"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"*.

Noting the role of research, innovation and knowledge exchange in enabling evidence-based policy making, and strengthening cooperation among BRICS countries in education,

Recognizing the importance of foundational learning, skill development, research and innovation, role of scientific associations/professional bodies, in accordance with national regulations and policies, academic mobility, and institutional capacity in addressing emerging global challenges and preparing future-ready learners,

Recalling the outcomes of previous BRICS Education Ministers' Meetings, including under India's BRICS Chairship the New Delhi Declaration (2016) and the BRICS Ministers of Education Declaration (2021), and the progress made in advancing cooperation in higher education and TVET; promoting quality teaching-learning processes; strengthening research collaboration, academic mobility and institutional partnerships; leveraging digital and technological solutions through platforms such as BRICS-Network University (BRICS NU) and BRICS-TVET Cooperation Alliance (BRICS-TCA) and development of enabling frameworks for cooperation among BRICS countries,

Encouraging the mobility of students, researchers, and faculty to support collaborative research and innovation through the BRICS NU and other institutional collaborations,

Considering the proposed updated Action Plan 2026-2028 of the BRICS-NU, and the establishment of the BRICS-TCA for strengthening cooperation in skill development,

Acknowledging the progress achieved in expanding access to quality and affordable education and integrating digital and technological solutions, including to develop and implement BRICS Digital Education Cooperative Mechanism, with a view to unlock these

potentials, empower learners, educators, researchers, and innovators, while recognizing the need to further strengthen resilient, inclusive and equitable education systems,

Emphasizing the actions required for strengthening BRICS cooperation in education as a key pillar for comprehensive development, and economic growth, and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal 4.

hereby declare to support collaborative initiatives for:

1.0 Strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN):

- 1.1 We underscore the foundational importance of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in supporting the holistic development of children during early childhood, as well as, for lifelong learning and equitable educational outcomes.
- 1.2 We agree to promote universal and inclusive access to quality ECCE and foundational learning, school readiness, expansion of school ecosystem, and infrastructure, including school feeding programmes and early childhood development, particularly for learners with special needs to improve school attendance and learning outcomes.
- 1.3 We encourage the sharing of best practices and innovations in pedagogy, curriculum design, learning and teachers support and assessment frameworks for foundational learning, as well as those that promote interactions, play, children's participation, and their well-being as essential elements of the provision of quality early childhood education.
- 1.4 We agree to leverage age-appropriate, safe and evidence-based digital and technological solutions to support early learning and improve learning outcomes, including through enabling learning environments, while taking into account the well-being of children and addressing the digital divide.
- 1.5 We encourage the strengthening of training and capacity building of teachers, professionals and practitioners for their continuous professional development in ECCE, and reaffirm our commitment to inclusive, safe and equitable learning environments.

2.0 Strengthening Cooperation in Skill Development and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET):

- 2.1 We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening skill development systems, digital literacy, and enhancing workforce preparedness across BRICS countries, while promoting the alignment of training programmes with evolving market demands and sustainable development priorities through promoting linkage of TVET institutions with industries.
- 2.2 We note with appreciation the initiative of the International Skill Gap Study under India's Presidency, in developing a common analytical framework to better understand skill demand. Interested BRICS members may participate in the initiative on voluntary basis, based on national priorities and available resources.

- 2.3 We highly recognize the important role played by the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance in building a multilateral platform for project cooperation, promoting information exchange, resource sharing, and advancing the joint development of TVET among member states. We look forward to the BRICS-TCA Biennial Progress Report and the BRICS-TCA Compendium of Sustainable Skill Initiatives, and invite the Alliance to continue joint research on the impact of TVET across BRICS economies, building on the study initiated in 2024.
- 2.4 We reaffirm the importance of equitable participation in TVET and welcome efforts to promote equal opportunities and inclusive participation of BRICS member countries, across BRICS Skill development initiatives.
- 2.5 We support the inclusive digital transformation of TVET in BRICS countries. We will promote the development of collaborative digital platforms and remote faculty training, particularly the joint building and sharing of digital curriculum resources, to ensure that all member institutions will benefit from the outcomes of educational technology.

3.0 Enhancing Research, Innovation and Start-up Ecosystems

- 3.1 We recognize the importance of strengthening collaboration in research, innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystems across BRICS countries.
- 3.2 We agree to promote joint research, cooperation and deployment of technology in education, while advancing the safe, ethical, human-centred, and responsible use of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence in education for joint solutions to shared challenges.
- 3.3 We reaffirm our commitment to supporting start-up ecosystems and fostering innovation-driven entrepreneurship.
- 3.4 We agree to promote policy dialogues, conferences, and collaborative platforms under BRICS NU to enhance cooperation in research and innovation.

4.0 Advancing Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (MRQ)

- 4.1 Recognizing the importance of advancing the mutual recognition of qualifications to facilitate academic and professional mobility, we agree on the need to hold meetings of the Working Group to take forward the deliberations, held during South Africa and Russia's Chairship of 2023 and 2024 respectively, for an MoU on Mutual Recognition of Qualifications, the draft of which has been shared by Russia. The Working Group could endeavour towards building a consensus on the MoU among BRICS member countries.

5.0 Strengthening Capacity Building for Academic Leadership and Institutional Development

- 5.1 We recognize the importance of strengthening capacity building to foster academic leadership and institutional development to enhance the quality and effectiveness of higher education systems.

- 5.2 Building on the BRICS Rectors' Forums held in 2024 and 2025, we encourage its continued organization on an annual rotating basis as a capacity-building platform for higher education institutions.
- 5.3 We encourage promotion of exchange and scholarship programmes, among BRICS NU, at undergraduate and post graduate levels, inter alia, a special focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- 5.4 We welcome the continued discussion on the Russian proposal for the BRICS Capacity building initiatives which are currently under a conception stage, including the BRICS Education Olympiad.
- 5.5 We agree to support the development of structured training modules and capacity-building initiatives aimed at improving institutional governance and management.
- 5.6 We encourage the sharing of best practices in higher education management, quality assurance, and reform processes.
- 5.7 We reaffirm our commitment to fostering institutional collaboration to enhance academic quality, innovation, and excellence.
- 5.8 We call for exploratory work towards the development of the BRICS University Global Ranking and Evaluation System, proposed in 2023, taking into account priorities of the higher education of BRICS member states. In this context, we take note of the proposal of Russia on the organization of a specialized workshop between September and December 2026.

6.0 Promoting Cooperation in Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

- 6.1. We recognize the value of traditional and indigenous knowledge systems as a vital resource for sustainable development, cultural diversity, and holistic education and encourage enhanced collaboration among BRICS countries for the documentation, preservation, promotion, and dissemination of traditional knowledge with the approval and involvement of knowledge holders and in accordance with national legislations and evidence-based scientific methods of research.
- 6.2. We agree to promote the integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge systems into education, research, and innovation frameworks, including their role in advancing sustainable living practices and resilience, consistent with national laws, policies and cultural context of BRICS countries.
- 6.3 We encourage cooperation and exchange of best practices in areas related to intellectual properties, traditional knowledge, research and responsible data governance in accordance with their national laws and priorities, we strive to pursue the development of joint protocols and implementation agreements in this regard.
- 6.4 We note with appreciation the initiative of BRICS India Presidency in circulating the BRICS Guiding Principles on strengthening academic collaboration on traditional and

indigenous knowledge systems and encourage the BRICS NU to consider the possible inclusion of traditional and indigenous knowledge systems as an additional International Thematic Group (ITG) of BRICS NU framework in accordance with established governance procedures consistent with the national laws and policies of BRICS countries. All member states participate equally in developing the thematic framework and determining research priorities.

7.0 We reaffirm our support for strengthening existing BRICS institutional mechanisms, including the BRICS Network University, and the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance and encourage enhanced collaboration through conferences, academic exchanges, and student engagement initiatives, including innovation platforms.

7.1. We encourage further institutional development of the BRICS Network University and recognize the value of continuing consideration of the relevant draft documents (namely academic mobility of faculty and staff, student academic mobility, the establishment of a BRICS Interdisciplinary Journal, a template agreement on double-degree Master's programmes, joint Brazil-China proposal for the establishment of the BRICS NU Secretariat) circulated within its framework for their consideration by BRICS member countries.

8.0 We agree to continue strengthening policy dialogue, exchange of best practices, and implementation of joint initiatives under the BRICS Education Track, and to ensure effective follow-up of agreed outcomes.

9.0 We intend to provide continued support for the coordinating mechanism of the BRICS Network University and to encourage the necessary resources for its sustained operation and development.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting and for its leadership in advancing cooperation in Education among BRICS Countries in 2026. We look forward to the Chinese Chairship of the 14th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting in 2027.

The English version of this Declaration was unanimously adopted on 7th August 2026 under the Chairship of the Republic of India.
